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July 8, 2006

Director of the US Patent & Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Director:

Enclosed with this letter is a Petition for an accelerated review of Patent Application # 10/820,198. The enclosed Petition provides not only the justification for such, but also some background information that explains why this new invention is so important.

If you have any questions or matters of concern, I can be reached at: 617-742-3388.

Sincerely,


Ralph Mitchell
Inventor

“Tomorrow’s Prosperity will result from actions taken today!”



Petition To Make Special

Re: Patent Application # 10/820,198
Mobilization Income Protection Plan
Submitted on 4-6-2004

I. Justification:

Just look at current events and one can see that we are a nation at war. We have been involved in a Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) with US troops fighting terrorist insurgents in Iraq and in Afghanistan. What good are innovative new gadgets for surveillance or improved weaponry if there are not enough military personnel available to operate them? More than thirty percent (30%) of all Guard & Reserve troops mobilized and deployed for extended tours of duty have suffered financially as a result of being deployed. In addition to the direct economic costs to these troops, there is a ripple effect of the second and third order that has negatively impacted their families, their civilian employers and the civilian communities where they live during peacetime. This invention constitutes a new form of insurance and is designed to provide financial relief and to eliminate future economic adversity.

This invention (if issued as a Patent) would materially contribute to countering the threat of terrorism by reducing the numbers of trained Guard & Reserve troops leaving military service. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.102, paragraph c, this petition is being filed without a fee.

II. Background Analysis:

The US Code allows the President of the United States to call as many as one million Guard & Reserve troops to involuntarily serve on active duty for as long as two years. Take into account all of the US military reserve personnel to include the National Guard and Reservists from all service branches to include the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health and pilots in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet; the numbers come to approximately 1.4 million individuals that could be mobilized into active military service. Due to National Security and matters of Operational Security, the exact numbers of troops that have been mobilized and deployed is regarded as being Classified Data. However, several open source references estimate that 40% to 55% of the entire troop strength on deployment in the hostile areas around the globe are Reservists (to include National Guard).

Out of all Reservists that have been mobilized, the Department of Defense reported in 2005 that approximately 30% of those troops had been previously unemployed or earned less money as civilians and looked at mobilization as being positive because they earned more money. In the middle was approximately 30% who earned about the same during mobilization as what they earned as civilians. The remaining population balance was approximately 30% who suffered financially because military compensation was indeed lower than what they were accustomed to being paid as civilians. Included in this segment of the population that suffered financially were highly intelligent individuals whom had been employed as Doctors, Nurses, Attorneys, Pilots, Computer Technicians, Law Enforcement and Corporate Managers. Those who owned businesses went into debt because they had to spend additional money to hire someone else to be a qualified substitute and "mind the store" while they were being sent away on deployment. In some instances, returning business owners who could not afford to pay anyone returned home only to see their businesses in ruins and to face personal bankruptcy. The end result is that many of those who suffered financially later became disgruntled and have mustered out of the service altogether.

As for those who did not own businesses, many have found the civilian job market to be somewhat hostile. Civilian employers are concerned with bottom line profits. Many employers will not hire anybody that has any kind of military obligation even if it is supposed to only be one weekend per month. It takes money to recruit, hire, train and pay someone to perform a job. Rather than risk spending money and later seeing that employee mobilized for overseas duty, many employers avoid that waste of money by simply not hiring any Reservists. In situations where an existing employee has been mobilized and deployed, their absence in the civilian work place means an additional workload being spread to those who remain; not to mention the additional costs of time and money spent trying to find a credible substitute. Since there is no outside money coming forth to help with those costs, this is even more reason why companies are not hiring Reservists. In terms of dollars, the amount of money paid each month to Reservists by no means is enough to live on. If forced to choose between paltry earnings from a weekend Drill versus a fulltime civilian paycheck with benefits, many will and have chosen the latter. Who can blame them?

Military service in the Guard & Reserves is becoming less and less popular. Attrition is at an all time high with the Department of Defense struggling to meet recruiting goals and struggling even harder to convince those already in uniform into staying for additional tours. To make it appear as though recruiting goals are being met, quotas for new recruits are often lowered at the last minute just to make it appear that recruiting efforts have been successful; when in reality the efforts failed. Lieutenant General James Helmly, Chief of the Army Reserve, publicly announced that in 2005 the high attrition and low recruitment had been taking a heavy toll on his troop strength; and that the Army Reserve was doomed to becoming a "broken force". There were even rumors going around regarding a possible return of the military draft as the only other means of supplying the military with enough troops in uniform.

III. Conclusion:

This invention constitutes an entirely new insurance product that is designed to serve as a means of retaining Reservists and National Guard personnel in uniform. This invention bridges the monetary gaps that exist between military pay and what Reservists are accustomed to earning as civilians. It provides monetary assurance to Business Owners and to civilian employers. It provides a predictable cost structure that the Department of Defense can use during the Quadrennial Defense Review; and controls the dollar liability of the Department of Defense.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.102, this Petition is being submitted so that Patent Application # 10/820,198 can receive Advancement of Examination. Since it involves an invention that would support the Global War on Terrorism by maintaining troop strength and materially contributes to countering terrorism, there is no fee required in order to make such a request.

In closing, please speed up the application process and grant final approval. The sooner that this Patent gets issued, the sooner an actual product can be made available to the troops, their families, their civilian employers and to the benefit of the American public.



Ralph Mitchell
Inventor